

# JBSA

# LEGACY

WWW.JBSA.MIL

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

NOVEMBER 6, 2020



## JBSA Security Forces sharpen skills with AACOG assistance

Page 17



## U.S.-Brazil talks secure readiness, friendship

Page 10



## Aircrew trainer enhances flight attendant training

Page 11

# In Operation Warp Speed effort, knowing where vaccines are is key

By C. Todd Lopez

DEFENSE.GOV

Right now, six vaccines for COVID-19 are in development as part of Operation Warp Speed, said the program's chief operating officer. Once one or more of those vaccines proves both effective and safe, their fast and efficient distribution will require knowing where every dose is at all times.

When planning for the distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine, Army Gen. Gustave F. Perna said he kept four tenets in mind. The first of those, he said, is visibility and control.

"We need to know where every vial was, whether it was in the factory, or it was on a truck, or it had been distributed down to an administration site; we must have 100% accountability of all vaccines every day," said Perna, who spoke Oct. 27 to the Heritage Foundation in Washington.

Also key to effective distribution efforts, he said, is tracking the uptake of vaccine — how many people are actually taking it. The primary reason for that, he said, is that of the six vaccines in development, five require two doses. It'll be important that everybody who takes a first dose gets the correct second dose when they come back for it.

Uptake tracking is also important, he said, because the amount of vaccine being distributed will dramatically increase shortly after the first doses become available.

"Initially, there will be tens of millions of doses available," he said, but beginning in January, the number of doses will quickly ramp up to hundreds of millions. "It'll be essential that we maintain the right flow of vaccine to the American people."

A third tenant of vaccine

distribution, he said, is knowing where the vaccine is going.

"We must make sure that we have traceability of the vaccine, and that we know where the vaccine is going at all times," he said. "It'll be a hot commodity, of course, and we need it to get to the places where it will be distributed based on state priorities and requirements in accordance with the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine."

Finally, he said, OWS wants to make sure that the entirety of the American population is covered, including all of the continental U.S. and every island, as well as to those Americans serving overseas at military bases and diplomatic locations.

Perna also said COVID-19 vaccine distribution, both initially and into the foreseeable future, will differ from other types of vaccine distribution efforts in that a COVID-19 vaccine will be "pushed" out to the American population, rather than "pulled." For influenza vaccines, for instance, distribution happens when hospitals and pharmacies order it from manufacturers — that's a "pull" model.

With the COVID-19 vaccine, the U.S. government has already paid for the vaccine. It will be sent out where it's needed without individual administration sites needing to ask for it.

"We are going to allocate equitably vaccine doses to all of America simultaneously," Perna said. "As doses become available, we're pushing down and out to the United States of America."

## Doing the impossible

It wasn't until May that Operation Warp Speed stood up. It's a partnership between the Defense Department and the

Department of Health and Human Services. One of the program's goals is to find a vaccine for COVID-19 before the end of the year and to quickly get that vaccine out to Americans by January 2021.

Most vaccines take years to develop, but OWS embarked on an effort to develop and distribute one in just nine months. Dr. Matthew Hepburn, head of vaccine development for Operation Warp Speed, says many people ask him how that's possible.

"The simple question is, how can you achieve the impossible? How can you take a vaccine development process that typically can take five years, eight years, 10 years, and truncate that into the timelines of Operation Warp Speed?"

One of the ways that's been possible, so far, Hepburn said, is modern vaccine technology.

Before OWS started, he said, there had already been great progress in terms of how to accelerate vaccine development. There had already been investments by HHS and the National Institutes of Health, he said. And DOD is also working on ways to make vaccines more quickly.

Another angle making OWS successful in achieving its goal, Hepburn said, is the manufacturing process. For the COVID-19 vaccine, manufacturing of the vaccine candidates is happening while they are still being evaluated for effectiveness. For vaccines candidates that prove ineffective, the already manufactured doses will be disposed of. But for those that are proven to work, millions of doses will be ready to go immediately.

"We've run these processes in parallel, and really made investments where large amounts of vaccines are being made much sooner," Hepburn

said. "By those investments, we're able to have millions of doses available much sooner than we ever would."

Large, diverse, safe clinical trials are also playing a role in OWS's effectiveness, Hepburn said. Clinical trials for the vaccine candidates involve some 30,000 individuals each, and safety has been a priority.

Two manufacturers, for instance, had their trials put on a "safety pause." While those pauses have been lifted, he said, they demonstrate the level of commitment to both a safe and effective vaccine, Hepburn said.

"We are following the highest ethical standards to ensure that these vaccines are safe, and that those clinical trials are conducted to the highest regulatory and ethical standards, as well," Hepburn said.

The clinical trials themselves are also large, involving 30,000 volunteers. Typically, he said, such a trial might involve 5,000 or 8,000 persons. The increase means better results.

"We want to gather as much safety information as we possibly can," he said. "And we also want to know if they work. With the more people you enroll, the sooner you're going to be able to evaluate the effectiveness."

Finally, Hepburn said, teamwork among multiple agencies and industry has helped OWS be effective in vaccine development.

"The way we fight the virus is really getting the best from all of us," he said, adding that this includes extraordinary cooperation among DOD, HHS and the private sector. "I've seen some of the best teamwork that I've ever been a part of as part of Operation Warp Speed — and it is the essential fourth ingredient on how we achieve the impossible."

## JBSA LEGACY

Joint Base San Antonio  
Editorial Staff

502nd Air Base Wing  
and JBSA Commander  
BRIG. GEN.  
CAROLINE M. MILLER

502nd ABW/JBSA  
Public Affairs Director  
MAJ. KIM BENDER

Editor  
STEVE ELLIOTT

Staff  
LORI BULTMAN  
DAVID DEKUNDER  
ROBERT GOETZ  
RACHEL KERSEY  
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS  
TYLER MCQUISTON  
SABRINA FINE

JBSA LEGACY  
ADVERTISEMENT OFFICE  
EN COMMUNITIES  
P.O. BOX 2171  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78297  
210-250-2052

This Department of Defense newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the DoD. Contents of the JBSA Legacy are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the DoD, or the U.S. Air Force.

Published by EN Communities, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force under exclusive written contract with the 502d Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the 502d Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office.

Everything advertised in this publication will be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any non-merit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.



# Feedback Fridays

**Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller**  
502D AIR BASE WING AND JOINT BASE  
SAN ANTONIO COMMANDER

Feedback Fridays is a weekly forum that aims to connect the 502d Air Base Wing with members of the Joint Base San Antonio community. Questions are collected during commander's calls, town hall meetings and throughout the week.

If you have a question or concern, please send an email to [jbsapublicaffairs@gmail.com](mailto:jbsapublicaffairs@gmail.com) using the subject line "Feedback Fridays." Questions will be further researched and published as information becomes available.

**Q. Is there any way we can get better support from the Education Center?**

**I understand COVID-19 has caused a strain on everyone, but for it to take more than a month to answer a question, especially regarding specific programs and tuition assistance, is unfair.**

**In my case, an email was submitted July 22, a request asking for someone from the education center to reach out by Aug. 12, and then I finally I got a response Sept. 4.**

**Classes that I had registered for ended up becoming full. I missed the opportunity to start classes during the fall semester, because we have to have all documentation in at least 10 duty days before we start.**

**Tuition assistance is a privilege and we only get a certain amount of funding each year. Now the fiscal year is practically at its end, which means unless I schedule a class now, I'm losing out on money that I've earned and the ability to further my education.**

**I have already submitted an ICE comment on this situation. Thank you.**

**A. Thank you for sharing your**



COURTESY GRAPHIC

concerns about the delay in responses from your servicing Education Center, and I am sorry for the delay and inadequate service you experienced with our Education Center.

Based on your feedback, we are looking into this situation to refine our processes and responsiveness. We will also coordinate and de-conflict with other Mission Partner Education Centers to identify any shortfalls and responsiveness issues. We will be sure to post all updates to our JBSA website.

Currently, all JBSA Air Force Education & Training centers are available virtually via telephone, video conferencing, Air Force Virtual Education Center (AFVEC) messaging services and email. The current processing time for all customer inquiries is within 3-5 business days but often sooner.

Additionally, the Centers have expanded opportunities for Airmen to receive advisement services through virtual mass briefings on initial tuition assistance, Transition Goals-Plans-Success (T-GPS) and

the Skillbridge program.

Lastly, the JBSA Education & Training Centers created a TeamUp calendar at <https://teamup.com/ks4rjh6tc128dcwzrx> listing all upcoming virtual briefings being offered to the JBSA community.

*Contact information for AF*

*Education & Training:*

► JBSA-Lackland: 210-671-8711/Org Box: 802fss.fsdee@us.af.mil

► JBSA-Randolph: 210-652-7439/Org Box: randolph.education@us.af.mil

► JBSA-Fort Sam Houston: 210-221-0852/Org Box: usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.502-fss-fsd@mail.mil

**Q. When will the south gate at JBSA-Randolph be open? We were told by email it would be open mid-September. It is now mid-October.**

**Also, when will the Selfridge gates at JBSA-Lackland open back up? It has been a very long time they have been closed for what was said to be "repairs." I've seen no repairing and they are still closed.**

**A. The JBSA-Randolph South Gate**

has re-opened and it has resumed being the installation's commercial vehicle inspection station as of Oct. 28. It is inbound only from 6 to 8:30 a.m. and then both inbound and outbound from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

In turn, the East Gate has closed until further notice (as it was before South Gate repairs began) as of Oct. 27, as part of the overall JBSA gate posture during COVID-19.

As for the JBSA-Lackland Selfridge gates, based on the needs of our mission partners neither gate has been determined for a re-open date at this time.

Gate availability is based on the need to balance the safety of our JBSA community with our mission partner and traffic volume demands.

We regularly monitor these demands for senior leader-requested changes or significant shifts in traffic patterns, and we will respond accordingly while maintaining that balance.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in this unprecedented time.

# JBSA recognizes hard work of volunteers

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio recognized the hard work of individuals and groups who have contributed to the betterment of the military community during its ninth annual Volunteer of the Year Awards ceremony Oct. 28 at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center.

Because of COVID-19, restrictions, only individual and group award winners, JBSA officials, speakers and ceremony organizers were in attendance at the ceremony, which was also broadcast on Facebook Live. Participants and those in attendance were required to wear face coverings and seating was set up for physical distancing.

Col. Shane Cuellar, 502nd Force Support Group commander, presented

awards to six individuals and three groups for their volunteer work in 2019. The award winners were among a total of 59 nominations submitted, covering nine award categories, from JBSA members.

“Through their selfless actions of service and motivation, all the volunteers we are here to recognize this afternoon have made an enduring impact on the JBSA community and the city of San Antonio,” Cuellar said.

“Many organizations rely on volunteers, who would not be able to accomplish their important work without them. Through combined dedicated efforts, our volunteers are the bond that truly strengthen community partnerships, uniting resources and unique specializations for overall community success.”

Awards were presented in the following categories to JBSA members and groups:

- » Outstanding Service Member Volunteer of the Year, Tech. Sgt. Ashley Glass, Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center at JBSA-Lackland;
- » Outstanding Family Member Volunteer of the Year, Sarah Kelly, Brooke Army Medical Center auxiliary club;
- » Outstanding Retiree Volunteer of the Year, Russell Gawrys, USO Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston;
- » Outstanding Civilian Volunteer of the Year, Leasa Northcutt, Defense Language Institute English Language Center at JBSA-Lackland;
- » Outstanding Youth Volunteer of the Year, Natasha Terrones, Brooke Army Medical Center summer youth program;
- » Outstanding Family Volunteer of the Year, Dewan family;
- » Outstanding Small Group Volunteer of the Year, First Class Petty Officers’ Association South Texas Region;

» Outstanding Large Group Volunteer of the Year, Army Medical Department Noncommissioned Officers Academy at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

The Volunteer Excellence Award went to Vincent Williams, George Hammer, Shirley Adcock and Gloria Ann Riggs; while the President’s Volunteer Service Award went to Shena Eliason, retired Sgt. Major Scott Denson, Petty Officer 1st Class Keron Liverpool and Petty Officer 1st Class Scott Cowan.

Senaida Aranda, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC work life specialist and event emcee, revealed that 6,950 JBSA members had volunteered a total of 181,018 hours in 2019, which came out to a monetary value of \$4.9 million.

For photos of individual and group winners, visit the JBSA Public Affairs Flickr page at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/jbsapublicaffairs/albums/72157716669092312>.

## Breast cancer doesn’t discriminate by age or gender

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In October, we tend to see a sea of pink on everything from pro football players’ uniforms, to ads for products touting support for breast cancer awareness. Although breast cancer is the second most common cancer in women, it affects men also.

According to the American Cancer Society, about one in eight women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in their lifetime. For men, the lifetime risk of getting breast cancer is one in 833.

### Male survivor story

“I never thought about the possibility of getting breast cancer,” said Rodney Bond, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2018. “You hear about all the other types of cancer, but you never hear about men having breast cancer.”

“We have to do something to increase male breast cancer awareness,” said Bianca Rodriguez, Brooke Army Medical Center breast

nurse navigator. “Everything is so targeted toward women; we forget men get breast cancer too.”

Bond started to feel a small lump in this chest. “I thought maybe I hurt myself lifting weights,” he said.

At first, he was told it could be caused by consuming too much caffeine, but the lump didn’t go away. In fact, it got bigger, about the size of a golf ball. At that point, his primary doctor referred him to emergency oncology at BAMC. They immediately performed a biopsy and a short time later gave him the news he had breast cancer.

“When Rodney was diagnosed with breast cancer, he thought it was a death sentence because he never heard of men getting breast cancer,” Rodriguez said.

“My first question was, ‘Am I going to die on Friday? Or am I going to die on Monday?’” Bond said. “I was a healthy guy — running and exercising, it just came out of nowhere.”

“I usually tell my patients, ‘We’re going to talk about your get-well plan.’” Rodriguez said. “That way it doesn’t sound so scary. For him, just

hearing those words changed his whole outlook on treatment.”

After surgery, radiation and chemotherapy, Bond is doing well. He will continue to have yearly follow-up appointments.

### Young and fit

Another misnomer is that younger women do not get breast cancer. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 11 percent of all new cases of breast cancer in the United States are found in women younger than 45 years of age.

At age 38, Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Chanda Conger recently found out she has breast cancer. The wife and mother of two daughters has a history of breast cancer in her family.

“My sister had breast cancer in her early twenties, so I’ve been getting screened once a year for several years now,” she said.

Prior to being stationed at Joint Base San Antonio, Conger underwent surgery to remove a benign lump in her breast.

Conger began seeing Army Lt. Col. (Dr.) Guy Clifton at BAMC for her

follow-on care. Because of her family history and previous lumpectomy, Clifton recommended she have an MRI every six months. The MRI showed a mass and after a biopsy she was diagnosed with invasive ductal carcinoma. IDC, sometimes called infiltrating ductal carcinoma, is the most common type of breast cancer.

After a double mastectomy, Conger is currently receiving chemotherapy.

“I have never experienced more personal, kind, care from a doctor, ever,” she said. “Even before I had cancer. The care I have received has always been individualized and specialized to me.”

Since being diagnosed with breast cancer, Conger said she has learned a few things.

“Cancer doesn’t discriminate based on age or how healthy you are,” she said. “I’m a Defender. I’m tough. I take care of myself mentally and physically. But, cancer didn’t discriminate, it picked me, too.”

There are resources available to help those who have a cancer diagnosis, such as BAMC’s Life After Cancer Education group, also known as LACE.

# FORT SAM HOUSTON

## Annual U.S.-Brazil army-to-army staff talks secure readiness, friendship

By Donald Sparks

U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

During World War II, after Brazil allowed the United States to place military bases on its territory, Germany and Italy retaliated and began attacking merchant ships from the South American nation.

Issuing a dare to the Brazilian military to enter the conflict, the German Reich proclaimed, "The Brazilians will go to war when the snake smokes." In 1944, the Brazilian Expeditionary Force, or BEF, arrived to Italy and fought with the U.S. Fifth Army, beginning a deep partnership between the two armies as part of the Italian Campaign.

More than 75 years later, the two armies strengthened their relationship at the conclusion of the weeklong U.S.-Brazil army-to-army staff talks, hosted by U.S. Army South at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Oct. 18-23. The U.S. Army has engaged in annual bilateral staff talks with the Brazilian Army beginning in 1984. This meeting marks the 36th time the two armies have met for staff talks.

"The Brazilian Army is one of our most valuable and strategic partners, not just in the Western Hemisphere, but globally," said Maj. Gen. Daniel Walrath, commanding general, U.S. Army South. "Our relationship goes back to World War II when the 'Smoking Cobras' fought alongside U.S. Army Soldiers



LEANNE THOMAS

*Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Walrath (left), U.S. Army South commanding general, and General de Brigada Otávio Rodrigues de Miranda Filho, 5th deputy chief of staff for the Brazilian Army, sign documents to approve agreed-to-actions and a five year plan between the two armies to conclude the U.S. and Brazil army-to-army staff talks at Army South headquarters at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Oct. 23. The U.S. Army Staff Talks Program serves as a bilateral engagement for military discussion between respective armies. This year marks the 36th time the U.S. Army and the Brazilian Army have met for staff talks, a weeklong series of meetings that is instrumental in enhancing interoperability and cooperation between the two partners.*

on the battlefields of Europe and continues to endure today. These staff talks have set the conditions to continue to grow that relationship into the future."

The Army Staff Talks Program seeks to promote bilateral efforts in order to develop professional partnerships and increase interaction between partner nation armies. The engagements enhance army-to-army contacts and

mutual understanding, providing the partner nation armies with insights concerning specific U.S. Army programs, areas of mutual interest, and supporting partner nation armies in areas of modernization or reform.

One of the major agreements between the two armies included the rotation of Brazil Army forces to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and for an element of U.S. Army

forces to rotate to Brazil as part of a training exercise next year.

This will be the first time a South American Army will rotate through JRTC.

During the week, the Brazilian delegation traveled to Fort Hood, Texas, to view mechanized armor vehicles of the 1st Cavalry Division and were briefed by representatives of the U.S. Army Futures Command in Austin. The delegation also

received an informational brief at U.S. Army North (Fifth Army), the higher echelon command for the BEF in World War II.

Gen-Bda (Maj. Gen.) Otávio Rodrigues Miranda Filho, Brazil Army G5 International Affairs expressed the staff talks provided an opportunity for the partnership to grow despite the current pandemic.

"The objectives of these meetings were fully achieved. Our armies will benefit from mutual interests, interoperability and combined readiness of our forces," Miranda Filho said. "It is satisfying to see our brothers in the U.S. forces share common goals in the defense of our strong democracies, commitment to regional and global peace and stability."

At the closing ceremony, both generals praised each other's army for the professionalism and friendship displayed throughout the staff talks.

"After this week, I can say that we are more than partners; we are true friends and brothers in arms," Miranda Filho said.

Walrath shared the same sentiment.

"The strength of our partnership is based on true friendship - which we extended this week," he said. "The brotherhood and common values that we share will enable us to continue working together to protect our way of life in our Western Hemisphere neighborhood."



# Counselor guides career paths of Sailors

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When service members with Navy Talent Acquisition Group San Antonio have questions about or need guidance on their career options in the Navy, one person they can reach out to is Petty Officer 2nd Class Jasmine Harris.

Harris is the assistant command career counselor at NTAG San Antonio, located at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, where she monitors and provides career guidance to active duty members and Reservists assigned to NTAG San Antonio.

As a career counselor, Harris said her focus is to assist Sailors on their career goals in the Navy.

"I make sure that their careers are on track with whatever their career goals are and I make sure they have a



BURRELL FARMER

*Petty Officer 2nd Class Jasmine Harris (right), Navy Talent Acquisition Group San Antonio assistant command career counselor, briefs Cmdr. Nicholas Gamiz, NTAG San Antonio commanding officer, on the Command Career Counselor Program at NTAG San Antonio headquarters in August.*

plan so they will be successful," Harris said.

Harris, 34, has served in the Navy for 8 ½ years. She started as an electrician's mate on the USS Nimitz for five years,

completing two western Pacific deployments and multiple training exercises during her time onboard.

While assigned to the USS Nimitz, she also worked as a

divisional career counselor in her department. Harris grew to enjoy helping and providing guidance to Navy service members in their career paths and, at that point, she decided on a career change herself.

"I figured if I'm good at this, then why not change from being an electrician's mate to being a Navy counselor and continue helping people," Harris said.

In April 2018, Harris was assigned to NTAG San Antonio – at that time known as Navy Recruiting District San Antonio – as a recruiter. She was a recruiter for two years, recruiting 62 future Sailors and earning several awards from NTAG San Antonio for her efforts.

Harris' goal of becoming a Navy counselor came true in August when she took over as assistant command career counselor. Besides providing career guidance to service

members, she assists the NTAG San Antonio command career counselor and command master chief in all career development programs.

Along with the command career counselor, Harris serves as a liaison between service members and the upper echelon in NTAG San Antonio – the commanding officer, executive officer and command master chief – in keeping them informed on the career development of Sailors at their command to promote retention of Navy personnel.

Harris said the communication and leadership skills she has hone while being a recruiter have helped her to become an effective Navy counselor. As a career counselor, she said she is approachable to Sailors who can come by her office at any time.

"Honestly, I just like helping people," Harris said.

## Legendary equestrian rider Russell passes away at 100

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Retired Col. John Russell, who was the oldest living Olympic medalist, respected international equestrian rider and coach, and World War II veteran, passed away at the age of 100 in his home in San Antonio Sept. 30.

Russell competed in two Olympics and several international competitions from 1948-56, winning a bronze medal in team jumping at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, Finland.

Born in Dauphin, Pennsylvania on Feb. 2, 1920, Russell's interest in horses started at a young age. He began riding on his family's dairy farm near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, according to an article written by Anne Lang in the magazine Chronicle of the Horse in 2011.

It all began when a colonel in



COURTESY PHOTO

*Retired Col. John Russell, the oldest living Olympic medalist and World War II veteran, passed away at the age of 100.*

the National Guard who lived next door to Russell provided him with his first lessons in basic equitation. Later, he joined the 104th Cavalry National Guard Regiment in Pennsylvania, in 1938, and two years later was assigned to the cavalry unit at Fort Riley, Kansas.

Russell joined the Army on active duty in 1943, serving as a member of Gen. George Patton's

staff during World War II. He served in combat zones in North Africa and Germany, and he received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Soldier's Medal. By the end of the war, Russell had risen to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

He was selected to the U.S. Olympic team for the 1948 London Olympic Games, the last U.S. equestrian delegation chosen from the Army. In London, Russell finished 21st in individual jumping riding on horse Air Mail.

In 1952, he finished first at the U.S. Olympic trials, qualifying for the Helsinki Olympics. He, along with William Steinkraus and Arthur McCashin, earned the bronze medal in the team jumping event.

"If you were an Olympic prospect, the Army would put you on TDY (temporary duty) to that team," said Russell in a video marking his induction

into the San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame in 2012. "So, I was on TDY to the Olympic Committee for two Olympics, which was a good way to do the Army."

After retiring from competition, he became the head of the United States Modern Pentathlon Training Center at Fort Sam Houston in 1956, where he coached six U.S. Olympic modern pentathlon delegations and 22 World Championship teams over the next several decades. He organized the 1959 and 1977 World Modern Pentathlon Championships, the latter of which was held in San Antonio. He retired from the Army in 1980.

Russell received many honors and awards for his equestrian work and the modern pentathlon, including the Pegasus Medal of Honor from the U.S. Equestrian Federation

and the Gold Medal of Honor from Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne, the modern pentathlon's international federation. He was also inducted into the U.S. Show Jumping Hall of Fame in 2001.

In 2010, Russell received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the U.S. Hunter Jumper Association.

In the same video marking Russell's induction into the San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame, Olympian pentathlete Bob Nieman gave credit to Russell for transforming him from a collegiate swimmer terrified of riding to helping him win the 1979 pentathlon world championship.

"Col. Russell, we never could thank you enough," Nieman said. "I can't imagine how we would have gotten to where we got without you. On behalf of everybody who trained under you, thank you very much."

# JBSA-Fort Sam Houston views heard during Army's 'Your Voice Matters' listening tour

By Lauren Padden

U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

To better understand the opinions and concerns of more than 1.4 million U.S. Army personnel, including both Soldiers and civilians, and to improve diversity, equity and inclusion across the force and build cohesive teams, Army senior leaders directed a worldwide listening tour take place through fiscal year 2022.

The tour, called "Your Voice Matters," made its way to Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, home to nine general officer-level commands, Oct. 20-22. Hearing concerns about issues within the community is a priority for leaders across the various commands, as well as Army leadership as a whole.

"It is imperative that we continue to promote a diverse, equitable and inclusive culture within our organization and our community, while listening to the experiences



LUIS DEYA

*Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson (right), U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) commander and Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis senior commander, receives a "Your Voice Matters" listening tour in-brief from Army Staff personnel Oct. 21 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.*

and recommendations of those around us," said Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army)

commander and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis senior commander. "When it comes to the

betterment of our Army, to placing people first and to winning, which for this command means defending the homeland, every voice truly does matter."

During the three-day event, personnel were given an opportunity to attend a 90-minute listening session to discuss current social issues, to share personal experiences, and to offer suggestions to make the Army better and contribute to an inclusive environment.

"Having observed these listening sessions for the past few days I was humbled and inspired by the candor of our Soldiers and civilians," said Master Sgt. Andreane M. Mallett, ARNORTH equal opportunity advisor. "At the very beginning, we explained that we were here to listen, not to provide answers, and I think their willingness to discuss difficult issues impacting our community will help all of us."

The Army will use data collected from the voluntary and confidential sessions to determine whether installation or Army-wide policies need to be reviewed, revised and/or updated based on systemic or institutional trends.

The tour is one part of the holistic Project Inclusion initiative the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff of the Army announced June 25.

"We'll be initiating listening sessions to encourage the open dialogue that is critical to helping understand and support each other," said Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy in the announcement.

Listening session attendees had the option of attending in person or virtually. Those who attended in person were required to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 safety guidelines, including the wear of masks and social distancing.

## MEDCoE professional development building stronger teams

By Tish Williamson

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As part of the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence Leader Professional Development, Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster, MEDCoE commanding general, hosted a session on the "Foundations of Leadership" Oct. 28.

The event was attended by nearly 100 virtual and in-person attendees, using COVID-19 mitigation measures, in Blesse Auditorium at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. The group, which included both

military and civilian personnel, discussed lessons learned from President John F. Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis, which ended Oct. 28, 1962 - 58 years ago to the day - as it related to three factors that apply to all levels of leadership:

- ▶▶ Attributes and competencies follow you
- ▶▶ Success or failure may turn into an attribute
- ▶▶ The leader's team is the sum of its competencies

Col. Laura Elliott, MEDCoE Chief of Staff, made opening remarks and facilitated the session, while Col. Caryn Vernon, the MEDCoE G3,

outlined the purpose of the LPD program and the way ahead for the program. Lt. Col. Justin Schlanser, executive officer to the chief, Dental Corps, served as guest speaker and initiated discussion on leadership, attributes and competencies.

Schlanser asked the group, "What have you done to cultivate the attributes of those junior to you?"

During the event, many audience members participated in the open discussion, to include J.M. Harmon III, deputy to the commanding general, who spoke about

actions needed to improve relationships between military and civilian team members in order to build more capable and cohesive teams.

Online and in-person attendees also had an opportunity to recommend books and movies that they have found to be instrumental in their own professional development.

LeMaster concluded the event with remarks about leadership and diversity.

"We have to be honest with ourselves," he said. "When you have an honest view of yourselves about your

attributes and competencies, you are confident enough to bring in experts, many with opposing viewpoints, which will better help solve big problems.

"You bring in people of different ranks, different backgrounds; you need diversity of thought," LeMaster said. "You need different perspectives to get it right."

The Army is committed to cultivating a culture built on trust, dignity and respect and advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion. That culture change must be fostered by leaders at all levels.

# Medical professionals from BAMC, Argentine Army discuss COVID best practices

By Robert Whetstone

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Medical professionals from Brooke Army Medical Center and Argentine Army's Central Military Medical Hospital didn't let 5,600 miles of separation keep them from discussing best practices against COVID-19 Oct. 21.

U.S. Army South facilitated the virtual subject matter expert exchange, or SMEE, between BAMC and CMMH, which is located in Buenos Aires, touching on numerous topics and providing lessons learned for the participants. The SMEE was an avenue allowing doctors from both countries to discuss critical aspects of combating COVID-19 that help protect the force and enhance readiness, while strengthening and building partnerships.

The exchange of COVID best practices focused not only on readiness, but how to treat both COVID and non-COVID patients, staff protection, research and development, and testing protocols. A total of 17 medical practitioners — six from BAMC and 11 from CMMH — participated in the virtual SMEE.

## Staff protection

Although they practice their craft in different countries, both find the importance of reducing risk to staff as paramount to providing safe, quality care to service members and the local communities they serve.

At the beginning of the pandemic, BAMC started with a deliberate operations order to assess staff, logistics and bed expansion capacity.

"We have many simultaneous missions to conduct, not just the mission to provide health care within our hospital" said U.S. Army Col. Michael Wirt,



ROBERT WHETSTONE

*Argentine Army Col. Oscar Zarich (left), Argentine Partner Nation Liaison Officer, U.S. Army South, moderates a COVID-19 subject matter expert exchange between doctors from the Argentine Army and Brooke Army Medical Center.*

BAMC deputy commanding officer. "We also deploy some of our staff to respond to local, regional and national requirements to support the COVID-19 crisis."

BAMC reduced its inpatient census, tightly managed personal protective equipment until the supply line became more predictable, limited the number of entrances to the hospital, conducted screening of everyone coming into the building, and began drive-through testing, all in order to reduce the chance of infection in the hospital.

Both BAMC and CMMH indicated that COVID and non-COVID patients are treated in separate areas. The CMMH team stated that COVID areas follow strict protocols, requiring personal protective equipment in all entrance points. COVID wards are routinely disinfected and CMMH employs a security committee that ensures the non-COVID area stays COVID free.

Supply and demand, particularly with PPE and COVID testing material, was a concern for BAMC and CMMH. There are over 14 million people

in the metropolitan area of Buenos Aires, and CMMH provides care to the military and general population. Even with PPE being such a prime commodity, CMMH manages to test their hospital staff of over 2,400 every 15 days. They test about 5,000 for COVID on a daily basis.

## Readiness and protocols

BAMC continues its partnership with University Health System and the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council to provide Level I Trauma care for 22 counties that encompasses 2.2 million people, even in the face of unprecedented healthcare system stress across the region.

"Certainly in San Antonio and the local area coordinating with the non-military healthcare systems, the trauma and emergency management platform was utilized for the pandemic," said U.S. Air Force Col. Patrick Osborn, BAMC deputy commander for surgical services. "That allowed for discussions on resources, testing, and policies on managing the pandemic, from a regional standpoint."

The Air Force Secretarial

Designee program allows BAMC to transport and accept extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, or ECMO, patients for complex critical care when hospital capacity allowed. The ECMO program provided significant community support for the sickest COVID-19 patients while furthering the readiness of numerous critical care personnel. For more about BAMC go to: <https://www.bamc.health.mil/>

"Through the infectious disease and public health communities, we have been working with public health in the state," said U.S. Air Force Col. Heather Yun, BAMC deputy commander for medical services. "We're one of many military health system hospitals in the United States, and all of our subject matter experts have been passing best practices back and forth and actually developing clinical practice guidelines. We're on the sixth version of the COVID guidelines."

Because of the fluid nature and constant learning surrounding COVID, protocols have been continuously changing for healthcare professionals.

"We've had to write a lot of things in pencil, and rewrite them in pencil again two weeks later," Yun explained. "We certainly follow CDC guidelines when it comes to things like infection prevention and control. When it comes to treatment protocols, we follow the science."

CMMH is experiencing the ebb and flow of changing protocols as well. Treatments of mild (symptomatic) and critical (low oxygen reactions) patients appear to be similar for both organizations.

## Facing challenges

There are challenges unique to each organization. Because of

the trainee population at Joint Base San Antonio, units had to develop isolation plans for trainees in those kinds of settings. Argentina is in the Southern Hemisphere, requiring CMMH to handle the COVID pandemic simultaneously with influenza season. Fortunately, according to the CDC's morbidity and mortality weekly report, influenza has been low this season. It is attributed to measures implemented worldwide to mitigate the transmission of COVID.

Practices and procedures that require high exposure is an obstacle medical treatment facilities have to negotiate in order to maintain a safe environment during the pandemic.

When community transmission has been high, many non-emergent procedures are postponed until conditions are favorable.

Communicating as a staff during the pandemic also offered challenges. CMMH and BAMC have had to rely on off-the-shelf technology to conduct meetings that would have otherwise been face-to-face.

## Research and development

BAMC is one of the participating sites of the clinical trials for Remdesivir as a treatment for COVID infected patients. BAMC is also involved in trials with convalescent antibodies/convalescent plasma.

As part of the Operation Warp Speed goal to deliver safe and effective vaccines and therapeutics by January 2021, five Department of Defense locations, including BAMC, have been identified to participate in the Phase III trial evaluating the vaccine candidate AZD1222 under development by AstraZeneca.



# LACKLAND

## ‘Speckled Trout’ ready to go for flight attendant students

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

An aircraft that began life as a refueling tanker and later provided executive airlift for the Air Force Chief of Staff as part of Project Speckled Trout will soon provide the service's prospective flight attendants with a more realistic training environment.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 25 next to the 344th Training Squadron hangar at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland signaled the completion of a months-long project undertaken by the 502nd Trainer Development Squadron at JBSA-Randolph to replace the original galley of the VC-135 aircraft with two new student station galleys for training flight attendants.

The ceremony featured comments by 344th TRS officials, including Maj. Jordan Clark, 344th TRS commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Michael Arroyo, 344th TRS Career Enlisted Aviator Center of Excellence commandant. Also in attendance were Col. Rockie Wilson, 37th Training Wing commander; Col. Joyce Storm, 37th Training Group commander; and Chief Master Sgt. Chris King, Air Education and Training Command CEA MAJCOM functional manager.

Changes to the aircrew trainer will enhance flight attendant training, said Chief Master Sgt. Rob Reasor, 344th TRS CEA CoE deputy commandant, who also spoke during the ceremony.



SARAYUTH PINTHONG

*U.S. Air Force instructors with the 344th Training Squadron Career Enlisted Aviator Center of Excellence cut the ribbon during the ceremony of the ‘Speckled Trout’ Oct. 26 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.*

“Any time we can get our aircrew candidates access to real ‘iron,’ it solidifies the classroom instruction and enhances retention,” he said. “The VC-135 Speckled Trout being updated to what our flight attendants will see and use in the field is a huge step forward.”

Tech. Sgt. Autumn Murphy, 344th TRS basic flight attendant instructor, described how students will learn in the new environment.

“There are already active kitchens, so the students have stoves, sinks and preparation stations where they can put all of the meals together,” she said. “They’re actually able to serve meals on the plane for training.

It’s much more realistic training.”

Students will also practice emergency procedures on the aircraft, Murphy said.

“So instead of sitting in the classroom, putting chairs together and pretending that they’re on an airplane, now they will be able to actually utilize an aircraft and get passengers out of their seats to use the emergency escape routes like they would on actual aircraft,” she said.

The two new student station galleys replicate those found on the C-40B, a Boeing 737 derivative, said Paul Ramsay, 502nd TDS design and development supervisor.

“The 502nd TDS took on the project, researched what could be done inside the aircraft to replicate the C-40B’s galley features and has been hard at work, first stripping out the old galley setup and then resourcing and building all the new cabinetry and appliances, and installing all the power, water and other services to make it all work together,” he said.

Reasor commended the 502nd TDS’ work on the project.

“The work and attention to detail accomplished by the 502nd TDS is amazing,” he said. “We did run into a few production delays that pushed our delivery back, but overall

we are happy with the end product. Our team of flight attendant instructors were the subject matter experts who guided the 502nd TDS fabricators through the details of the build. From course requirements to the actual look and feel of the jet, these folks are the professionals that made this possible. I’m super proud to have them all on our team.”

The Speckled Trout began as a KC-135A-BN and took its first flight in December 1985. Throughout the years, it flew with the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska; the 66th Airlift Squadron at Hickam AFB, Hawaii; and the 412th Flight Test Squadron at Edwards Air Force Base, California.

The aircraft was moved to JBSA-Kelly Field in June 2008 and to the JBSA-Lackland Training Annex less than a year later, but now resides next to the 344th TRS hangar, where it continues to provide training for a variety of aircrew members.

“Moving the aircraft from the JBSA-Chapman Training Annex is a massive time saver for our students and cadre alike,” Reasor said.

The trainer’s new setup is ready for the FA class that begins in December, Murphy said.

“We had contractors finishing stuff up until very recently,” she said. “Now it’s 100 percent ready and operational. We’ve already started the training with this class, so we will start with the next class in December.”

# AFCEC hosts annual training workshop

By Mila Cisneros

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND  
MISSION SUPPORT CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Engineers and architects from across the Department of Defense met virtually Oct. 20 to discuss policy updates to help build more resilient and code compliant facilities to meet mandatory DOD facility criteria.

During this year's Discipline Working Group Training Workshop, a team of Air Force Civil Engineer Center Facility Engineering, Operations, and Planning and Integration Directorates subject matter experts came together with their counterparts from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,

Navy Facilities Engineering Command, the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Air Force's Office of the Civil Engineer to collaborate with peers and discuss policy updates. Representatives from the National Institute of Building Sciences and IHS Markit also attended and offered a broad base of engineering data.

The DWGs shape DOD policy for facility builds as well as maintenance and renovation. Air Force participation in the DWGs ensures service-unique requirements are considered during criteria development. That includes technical guidance, new technology, regulations, safety,

sustainability and environmental compliance.

Hosted by AFCEC, this year's virtual, one-day event focused on the Unified Facilities Criteria program health and funding.

AFCEC, together with USACE and NAVFAC, is responsible for the administration of the criteria program.

"The criteria outlined in the UFC and unified facilities guide specification documents are essential to Air Force installations planning," said Dr. Tim Sullivan, chief of the technical services division. "They are developed to establish, implement and provide enforceable standards for structural design,

mechanical, electrical, fire protection or environmental compliance to name a few.

"The criteria are mandatory to use for all DOD construction efforts because they provide technical building requirements for design, construction and maintenance of facilities," Sullivan said.

This year the DWG workshop specifically addressed updates made to the DOD Standard Practice, "Unified Facilities Criteria, Facilities Criteria and Unified Facilities Guide Specifications" and the Unified Facilities Criteria DOD Building Code.

"The critical updates we made better align roles and responsibilities in

construction between DOD criteria and industry standards," Sullivan said. "We sought to clarify the role of the 'building official,' which is essentially the inspector who ensures constructed facilities meet code." Sullivan said he's hopeful the clarifications will help avoid a lot of confusion experienced in the past.

The Air Force relies on AFCEC's Facility Engineering Directorate to help provide mission-ready infrastructure, a key part of the service's ability to build on lethality, and air and space superiority. The directorate's technical services division ensures construction efforts Air Force-wide are in accordance with DOD directives.

## ALL-FEMALE CCATT SAVES LIFE OF INFANT



A 59th Medical Wing Pediatric Critical Care Air Transport Team provides care to a 5-month-old patient on board a C-17 Globemaster III headed to California Oct. 9. The patient and his family were traveling from the neonatal intensive care unit in Hawaii to Texas.

COURTESY PHOTO



# 433rd AW family, teammates welcome Reserve Citizen Airmen back home

By Tech. Sgt. Iram Carmona  
433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Thirteen Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 433rd Security Forces Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio -Lackland returned home from a deployment in Southwest Asia, were greeted by family members at the San Antonio International Airport Oct. 26.

The Defenders were returning home from a three-month-long deployment to Southwest Asia.

"To know that we successfully and safely got a team out the door and back in during this time of COVID-19 and still able to accomplish the mission is a relief and a breath of fresh air knowing that something like this didn't hold us back," said Senior Master Sgt. Catherine M. Falcon, 433rd SFS programs superintendent.

The Airmen will be integrated back into the Alamo Wing and have some time off before returning to duty and civilian careers.



TECH. SGT. IRAM CARMONA

Senior Airman Deonna N. Brown, 433rd Security Forces Squadron, is greeted by her husband Coy Brown and their two children Levi and Madison Oct. 26, 2020 at the San Antonio International Airport. Brown's husband surprised her as she walked out to the baggage claim.

## 502nd Installation Support Group leaders visit 433rd AW

Col. Steven A. Strain, 502nd Installation Support Group commander, experiences the virtual reality training system at the 733rd Training Squadron during a tour of the 433rd Airlift Wing Oct. 21 at Joint Base San Antonio -Lackland, Texas. The purpose of the tour was to familiarize the new 502nd ISG leadership with the 433rd AW.



TECH. SGT. IRAM CARMONA

By Tech. Sgt. Iram Carmona  
433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Col. Steven A. Strain, 502nd Installation Support Group commander, along with Chief Master Sgt. Carey S. Jordan, command chief, and Mark J. Tharp, technical director, toured the 433rd Airlift Wing at Joint Base San Antonio -Lackland Oct. 21.

The purpose of the tour was to familiarize the new 502nd ISG leaders with the 433rd AW mission and its leaders.

"It's important for us to maintain connections with the 502nd ISG," said Col. Terry W. McClain, 433rd AW commander. "When we need support, it's a lot easier when we have that personal connection and can place a face on the other end of the phone."

To better understand the unit's capabilities and training curriculum, Strain, Jordan and Tharp visited the 733rd Training

Squadron's C-5M Super Galaxy cargo load trainer, flight simulator and virtual reality training system.

"The scope of what the 433rd AW does for the active duty, Guard and Reserve, the quality they have and the innovation spirit it has shown through VR capabilities and alternate training is fantastic," Strain said. "We have multiple mission partners, so by getting out and understanding their missions, we can better serve them and provide better customer service through logistics or support."

The 502nd ISG leaders also toured the C-5M Super Galaxy.

"This really gives us a better understanding about what you guys do and capabilities that you have because as mission partners we can be able to collaborate and connect with the 433rd AW and share capabilities amongst each other," said Chief Master Sgt. Carey S. Jordan, 502nd ISG command chief.



# RANDOLPH

## Nineteenth Air Force activates training center

By Robert Goetz  
502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Maj. Gen. Craig Wills, Nineteenth Air Force commander, took a pause from the comments he was making inside Hangar 62 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph as a jet aircraft roared overhead.

"That's the sound of progress," he said. "If you're on an Air Force base and you're not getting interrupted all the time by jet noise, then we're missing the mark, and that's just one more testament to the great maintainers we have. It's the sound of freedom."

Wills saluted the Air Force's maintainers – the technicians who keep the service's fleet of aircraft roaring – as he headlined an activation ceremony Oct. 29 that showcased the 19th Air Force Maintenance Training Center, a new facility inside a decades-old hangar.

"What a great day in the life of the United States Air Force, Nineteenth Air Force and America," he said. "Right here in the Alamo City we're once again making history and moving our Air Force forward in spite of all of the challenges, all of the difficulties, all of the trials that you read about in the news every day. Today we bring good news to America, and that is that we're reinvesting in our foundational skills to take great care of our Airmen who fly, who fix, who fight for our country. And if you think I'm exaggerating, you're wrong."

Wills said maintainers are indispensable to the mission – the "backbone" of the Air Force flying program.



SEAN WORRELL

Brian Bastow (center), Nineteenth Air Force logistics requirements branch chief, cuts a ribbon held by Chris Padeni (right), Nineteenth AF maintenance training superintendent, and Dean Jeavons (left), Nineteenth AF maintenance requirements section chief, during the Nineteenth Air Force Maintenance Training Center activation ceremony Oct. 29 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The Aircraft Maintenance Training Center is an Air Education and Training Command initiative to fill a void of aircraft maintainers after the Air Force converted training aircraft maintenance from active-duty to civilian professionals.

"There's no way for us to train great pilots, air battle managers, systems officers – we can't do anything without airplanes that fly," he said. "And in the rain, and in the heat, and in the sun, the ice, when the engines are hot and the hands are cold, it's the maintainer out on the flightline day in and day out that makes this happen."

The MTC, located on the south end of Hangar 62, will start producing a new generation of trainer aircraft maintenance technicians for Air Education and Training Command's Nineteenth Air Force when classes begin in the

near future.

Lt. Col. Lance Myerson, Nineteenth Air Force director of logistics, said the MTC fills a void that has existed since formal trainer aircraft maintenance training ceased at Randolph in 1995.

About a decade earlier, the Air Force reclassified trainer aircraft maintenance as a commercial activity, converting active-duty maintenance organizations to contract or civil service organizations.

"Throughout the years the command relied heavily on previously trained active-duty technicians to perform

maintenance as either contract employees or civil servants," he said. "The strategy worked well for some time. However, after 25 years we no longer have the luxury of hiring previously qualified mechanics."

Four years ago, AETC and the Nineteenth Air Force started the process to develop plans and obtain funding for a new formal aircraft maintenance training program, culminating in the MTC, Myerson said.

"The future of the Air Force pilot production is being shaped right before our eyes and the Nineteenth Air Force and Maintenance Training Center

proudly stand at the forefront with the equipment and tools to build a professionally staffed maintenance training program," he said.

The MTC features a large 10,000-square-foot open area with a resurfaced floor that will accommodate the trainer aircraft used for training; new lights; overhead infrared gas heaters; and specialized electrical components to power the aircraft.

A 5,000-square-foot office and classroom area on the second floor of the hangar is also part of the training center.

Once classes begin, a team of instructors will teach students basic maintenance of the T-1A, T-6A, and T-38A aircraft that serve AETC installations as well as more advanced courses such as avionics and jet propulsion.

The ceremony concluded when Brian Bastow, Logistics Management Branch chief for the Nineteenth Air Force Directorate of Logistics and a longtime proponent of reviving formal trainer aircraft maintenance training, cut the ribbon that marked the official activation of the MTC.

The ceremony was an appropriate tribute to maintainers, Wills said.

"The reason I wanted us to get together today and make it just a little bit bigger deal than we ordinarily would is that sometimes we fail to celebrate the things every day that we take for granted," he said. "And so we know that we're not rolling out a brand new M-35, we're not rolling out some kind of crazy technological advance, but it's really important that we stop and celebrate the people who work so hard for so long to make this dream a reality."

# JBSA Security Forces sharpen skills

By Airman 1st Class  
Tyler McQuiston

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Alamo Area Council of Governments, a voluntary association of cities, counties and special districts within South Central Texas, has a longstanding relationship with the San Antonio military community and recently hosted a training event for Joint Base San Antonio security forces members.

The AACOG's outreach to the area's military communities includes facilitating communication and collaboration between JBSA installations and municipal, county and community stakeholders, as well as promoting compatible civilian development and activities in support of local military missions.

The security forces training event, conducted Oct. 22 at the Alamo Area Regional Law Enforcement Academy in San Antonio, consisted of multiple real-life scenarios created by police academy staff members to give JBSA's security forces the most up-to-date training possible.

Security forces members were placed in four-person tactical teams and utilized their previous training experiences in the new training environment. Throughout the day, the teams cycled through multiple exercises.

"It's very exciting to be able to host JBSA; we're practicing some defensive training using our live shooter simulator, apartment setting simulator and combat area," said Diane Rath, AACOG executive director. "We started our relationship with the JBSA Security Forces Squadron many years ago and it continues to expand."

During parts of the training,



BRIAN VALENCIA

Security Forces members wore shock belts and vests set to register a shock if they sustained simulated wounds, such as being "shot" or "stabbed."

During the combat portion of the exercises, Security Forces personnel had to respond to multiple scenarios, including two individuals fighting and resisting arrest, a hostage situation, suicide bombings, and an aggressor with an electric knife.

Participants tasked with the apartment-setting simulation received calls and were dispatched to a scene where volunteers acted out real-life

scenarios and responders had to de-escalate and maintain the situations.

During the training, there were also scenarios involving a mental illness case, as well as a domestic abuse and violence incident. In the scenario, participants entered an apartment and assessed the situation while also checking the perimeter of the room and removing any weapons.

"During the domestic scenarios, my partner and I were 'shocked.' You really don't know what you're going into, and you have to assess the situation," said Senior Airman Ashley Villanueva of the 502nd

Security Forces Squadron.

The SFS members in the live-shooting simulation stood in the center of a 360-degree projector area where the instructor would play a video scenario. Members were equipped with an ultraviolet pistol and holster, and when they needed to use deadly force to react to the situation, the simulation would react accordingly.

In another portion of the training, members listened to emergency dispatcher telephone calls simulating an angry girlfriend shooting at her ex-boyfriend's residence, a suspicious call reporting a

disturbance at an airport, and a person reporting a possible stolen vehicle.

"This training is invaluable to our security forces," said Col. James Masoner, 502nd Security Forces Group commander. "They have tools that we don't have, and the experience we simply cannot match for the training we need to get for our troops."

In the future, AACOG plans to continue working with JBSA Security Forces personnel on a larger scale to give them additional training and help them prepare for some of the many situations they may one day encounter.

*From left: Staff Sgt. Kody Negri, 802nd Security Forces Squadron, Staff Sgt. William McLaughlin, 502nd SFS, Sgt. Michael Aulner, 502nd SFS and Officer Jeremy Quinn, 802nd SFS, participate in combat training at the Alamo Area Council of Governments Oct. 22 in San Antonio. Security Forces were able to work with law enforcement training instructors from AACOG to get a perspective outside the traditional security forces training.*